

Hunting Preserve Checklist

Hunting Preserve Applicants Should Receive:

- ___ Summary of Hunting Preserve Requirements
- ___ Hunting Preserve Application Procedures
- ___ Game Bird Housing Requirements
- ___ Additional Information for Hunting Preserves Approved to use Mallards
- ___ Operational Plan
- ___ Copy of Hunting Preserve Rule (May, 2002)
- ___ Copy of Hunting Preserve Statutes (December, 2001)

Hunting Preserve Applicants Should Return:

- ___ Signed commercial license application for a Hunting Preserve License
- ___ Cashier's check or money order for Hunting Preserve License fees
- ___ Map of the proposed hunting preserve showing fields and boundaries
- ___ Map that provides driving directions to the proposed preserve
- ___ Ownership or lease documents
- ___ Completed and Signed Operational Plan

Please submit all the above documents together – your application will not be processed until all documents are received.



Summary of Hunting Preserve Requirements*

- At least 100 acres, but not more than 2000 acres, that you own or lease are required for a hunting preserve.
- Boundary lines must be marked with signs indicating that the property is a hunting preserve.
- Only birds for which you are approved may be used. Pheasants and mallards require special approval. Quail and chukar can be used on all licensed preserves.
- All birds released on the preserve must be from an NPIP (National Poultry Improvement Plan) approved source. NPIP is a program that certifies that the birds are free of certain diseases. If you raise your own birds you can apply for NPIP certification, or you can purchase young birds or eggs from an NPIP source and raise them until release. Whether you raise birds or purchase birds just prior to release, your NPIP birds cannot be mixed with birds from a non-NPIP source. Request an NPIP certification number from your supplier when you purchase birds. Keep this number with your records. To become NPIP certified, contact your local LA Cooperative Extension Service county agent or call the LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry at 225/925-3980.
- The LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry has regulations governing the importation of birds into LA. For permit and health certificate requirements contact the State Veterinarian's office at 225/925-3980.
- All quail and mallards must be banded with a band containing your permit number prior to release.
- Records of bird purchases, bird releases, and hunt results must be kept and submitted to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at the close of the hunting season.
- An operational plan must be submitted and approved before a license will be issued. A form for the operational plan will be provided. Approval from the Wildlife Division must be obtained before you deviate from an approved operational plan. The operational plan is intended to tell us what you plan to do and let you know what we expect. It will help prevent misunderstandings and surprises for both you and this Department.
- A map clearly indicating the location of the preserve and boundaries must be provided with your application.
- Your hunting preserve license will allow you to possess and raise gamebirds for use on your preserve. If you choose to sell birds to other preserves or other individuals you will also need a game breeder license. Regardless of which license(s) you have, the facilities where your birds are housed must meet the minimum standards for game breeders.
- The deadline for applications for the upcoming hunting preserve season is August 1.

* **This is not intended to be a complete list of requirements, see the Hunting Preserve Rule (LAC 76:V.305) and state statutes (L.R.S. 56: 651 et seq.) for complete information.**

Hunting Preserve License Application Procedures



1. Read Hunting Preserve Rule (May, 2000) and Statutes (December, 2001) – current versions should have been provided with this packet. If they were not provided, call 225/765-2355 to obtain them.
2. Complete a hunting preserve commercial license application – call 225/765-2350 to apply. You will be asked some questions over the phone and a completed application will be sent to you for your signature. Bring the application to the Baton Rouge headquarters or one of the regional offices (see attached list). It is required that you apply in person and present valid identification when you apply for the first time. Your commercial license application will be reviewed and signed by either law enforcement or commercial license personnel.
3. Return the signed commercial license application, money order/cashiers check for \$200.00 (personal checks not accepted), and documents described below to:

Wildlife Division
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Please return all documents at the same time. Missing documents will delay your application. Use the checklist on the first page of this packet to make sure all documents are included.

4. Enclose a map(s) of the property showing its boundaries with your application. A quad map or aerial photo is preferred.
5. Enclose a map that shows the location of the property in relation to roads and towns. A parish map, online map (Map Quest, Google Maps, etc.) or road map that will assist LDWF in locating the property is preferred.
6. Enclose a completed Operational Plan with your application. A form should have been provided with this packet. If not, call 225/765-2355 to obtain one. It is okay if you are uncertain about all aspects of your operation, provide as much information as possible. We will contact you and provide assistance if additional information is needed or changes are necessary.
7. Enclose proof of land ownership (tax receipts or other documents) or if leased, a copy of the lease.
8. Once the above documents are received, your application will be sent to the appropriate Wildlife Division regional office. A biologist will contact you to schedule an inspection of the property. The biologist will visit the property to be sure that the property is suitable for use as a hunting preserve and will also check for the required signs, bird housing facilities, etc.
9. The deadline for applications to be considered for the following hunting preserve season is August 1.
10. If you have questions call 225/765-2355 or contact us by e-mail: fkimmel@wlf.louisiana.gov.



Additional Information for Hunting Preserves Approved to Use Mallards*

1. Hunting preserves may only use mallards if specific approval is given by the Wildlife Division. Mallards cannot be used in the coastal zone, defined as the area south of I-10/I-12, or in any area where they may have impacts on wild ducks or wild duck hunting. See the Hunting Preserve Rule for complete information.
2. In addition to the state rules, federal regulations [50 CFR 21.13(d)] also govern the taking and possession of mallards on hunting preserves. These federal regulations also require the permanent marking of mallards. The Code of Federal Regulations provides regulations for taking of captive mallards by shooting: “Such birds may be killed by shooting only in accordance with all applicable hunting regulations governing the taking of mallard ducks from the wild.” There are, however, a couple of important exceptions to this rule:
 - A. On state licensed hunting preserves, properly marked mallards (toe clipped, tattooed, seamless band) may be taken by shooting at any time and in any number. However, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has set a more restrictive hunting preserve season of October 1 – April 30 to which you and your clients must adhere. In addition to the federal marking requirements, state regulations require that each mallard be banded with a band imprinted with your hunting preserve number.
 - B. A migratory bird hunting stamp (federal duck stamp) is not required to take properly marked mallards on licensed hunting preserves. However, a state duck stamp and hunting license is required.
3. Please note that there is no exception to the federal baiting regulations for licensed hunting preserves. Hunting mallards over feed or responding to feed is considered baiting.
4. Also note that there is no exception to the non-toxic shot (steel shot) requirement. State and federal regulations require that approved non-toxic shot must be used to take mallards on licensed hunting preserves.
5. Taking of migratory birds other than properly marked mallards must conform to all state and federal hunting regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, season dates, bag limits, license requirements, duck stamp requirements, and live decoy prohibition.

*** This is not intended to be a complete list of requirements, see the Hunting Preserve Rule (LAC 76:V.305), state statutes (L.R.S. 56: 651 et seq.), and Code of Federal Regulations [50 CFR 21.13(d)] for complete information.**

Game Bird Housing Requirements for Hunting Preserves



The following are the minimum requirements for housing game birds and mallards for licensed hunting preserves. Well-conditioned birds suitable for use on hunting preserves will require housing facilities exceeding these minimum standards.

Quail:

1-10 days old: 9 chicks per square foot

10 days – 6 weeks old: 6 chicks per square foot

6 weeks and older: 3 birds per square foot

1 breeding pair per square foot

Pheasants and Chukar:

1-10 days old: 6 chicks per square foot

10 days – 6 weeks old: 4 chicks per square foot

6 –14 weeks old: 1 bird per 4 square feet

1 breeding pair per 8 square feet

Mallards:

Up to 6 weeks old: 1 square foot per duck

Over 6 weeks old: 3 square feet per duck

Louisiana Hunting Preserve Statutes – Title 56 of Louisiana Revised Statutes

PART IX. HUNTING PRESERVES

§651. License

Any person, firm or corporation desiring to establish, maintain or operate a hunting preserve within the state of Louisiana to permit the releasing and shooting or taking of pen-raised quail and pen-raised mallard by the public for a fee or otherwise may apply to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for a license to do so, and said commission is hereby authorized to issue such an applicant a license for that purpose, upon the conditions set out.

Added by Acts 1958, No. 455, § 1; Acts 1988, No. 87, § 1.

652. Rights under license

Any license issued hereunder shall permit the licensee to propagate, possess, and release for shooting or taking on the preserve covered by such license any pen-raised quail and pen-raised mallard and in addition thereto, import, propagate, possess, and release for shooting or taking on the preserve covered by such license any foreign game bird not a native of the state of Louisiana, if approved by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Added by Acts 1958, No. 455, § 2; Acts 1988, No. 87, § 1.

§653. Information to accompany applications; annual fee

A. The application for such a license shall be accompanied by a fee of two hundred dollars to be the annual charge for the issuance of such license, and shall be further accompanied by information as to:

- (1) The location and description of the premises, including a legal description of the land, and
- (2) Copies of parish or ward maps with the area or areas clearly outlined and a description of the facilities thereon, together with the interest of the applicant therein.

B. It shall further be accompanied by information on the applicant as to his place of residence or, if a corporation, the place of incorporation, and the location of its principal place of office, and if a partnership, the names and addresses of each partner, the address of its principal office, together with full details as to the intended operations on said hunting preserve. Also, the applicant shall further furnish to the commission any additional information required or which may be requested by said commission.

Added by Acts 1958, No. 455, § 3; Acts 1988, No. 87, § 1.

§654. Conditions

The following conditions must be complied with before the applicant shall be eligible for the issuance of a hunting preserve license as herein provided:

- (1) The land to comprise said preserve shall consist of not more than 2,000 acres nor less than 100 acres and must be owned or leased by the applicant. In the event the property is under lease to the applicant, said lease shall be for a term of not less than one year from date of application, and such lease is subject to inspection and approval by the commission in the consideration of the granting of such license.
- (2) The boundary lines of said premises shall be marked by signs located not more than four hundred feet apart, indicating that they are boundary line signs of the preserve in letters not less than two inches in height.
- (3) Only pen-raised mallard or black ducks, at least two generations removed from the wild, or pen-raised quail are approved state game birds which may be used for preserve hunting.
- (4) All open-raised quail and pen-raised mallard released on a hunting preserve shall have a band on one leg which shall contain information as to permit number and an identification number. The band must be approved by the commission and shall remain on the bird whether it be removed from the preserve dead or alive until said bird is ready for consumption. All game birds taken from any such hunting preserve must be tagged in a manner as specified and approved by the commission.
- (5) A complete record of all birds propagated, released or taken on said preserve, including complete records of all operations of said preserve, shall be furnished the commission within 60 days after the hunting season has closed.

Added by Acts 1958, No. 455, § 4; Acts 1988, No. 87, § 1.

§655. Regulation of operations

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall have the authority to regulate the operations of hunting preserves licensed hereunder, and to set seasons, bag limits, and any other rules and regulations on the operation of said hunting preserves as are deemed necessary for the best interest of the public.

Added by Acts 1958, No. 455, § 5. Amended by Acts 1974, No. 682, § 1; Acts 1988, No. 846, § 1.

§656. Hunting and game laws to prevail; special licenses

All laws, rules and regulations in force pertaining to hunting or pertaining to game shall, except as herein provided, prevail on hunting preserves hereunder licensed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. The regular appropriate hunting licenses as provided by the legislature shall apply to all persons hunting on said preserves, except that should the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission so desire, it may provide for a special resident or non-resident license to be issued at a reasonable fee applicable to any particular hunting preserve; provided further that such special license shall apply only to the person to whom issued and to the particular preserve for which issued.

Added by Acts 1958, No. 455, § 6.

§657. Revocation of license; appeal

Should any licensee under this Part violate any of the provisions of this Part, or violate any law, rule, or regulation pertaining to game in this state, or should he fail to comply with the provisions of this Part or any other provision by law, rule, or regulation pertaining to game in this state, then, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby empowered to immediately and without notice revoke the license hereunder issued. In the event of a revocation of license by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the licensee to whom such license was issued may appeal within ninety days the action of the secretary to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and he shall be given a hearing before said commission for a determination of his rights, which hearing shall be granted upon application by said licensee within ninety days of receipt by said commission of a written request for such hearing. Such appeal for hearing must set out all grounds for such appeal and, upon failure of the appealing licensee to set out proper grounds for such a hearing in such written request, then, the commission may in its discretion deny such hearing, provided that the appealing licensee is so notified within ninety days from the receipt by the commission of his written request.

Added by Acts 1958, No. 455, § 7. Amended by Acts 1981, No. 736, § 1.

§658. License periods

The licenses herein provided for shall be issued annually and shall be effective from July 1st of each calendar year through June 30th of the next calendar year.

Added by Acts 1958, No. 455, § 8.

§659. Penalties

Any violation by any person, firm, or corporation of any of the provisions of this Part or the failure to comply with said provisions, including the securing of the license herein provided, shall constitute a class two violation.

Added by Acts 1958, No. 455, § 9. Amended by Acts 1981, No. 837, § 3.

Louisiana Hunting Preserve Regulations LAC 76:V.305 (May 2002)

305. Hunting Preserve Regulations

A. As provided by R.S. 56:651, the department may issue a license to operate Hunting Preserves. Hunting preserves are to be operated under the following regulations:

1. Application Requirements

a. Application shall be made in writing on forms provided by the department.

b. Applicant must provide proof of ownership or verification of exclusive hunting rights from the landowner of the property the hunting preserve is to be operated. This is to be returned with the application.

c. All applicants, including applicants for renewal as required by the Department, must provide a written operational plan detailing the type(s) of birds to be released, the methods(s) and time of release, and location(s) of release. A description of hunting activities that occur or are likely to occur on the preserve and surrounding property must also be included. In the case of hunting preserves approved to utilize mallards, a map must be included in the operational plan which indicates the release site, water areas, and shooting areas. A license will not be issued until the operational plan has been approved by the Department. Deviation from the approved operational plan is permitted only with written consent of the Department.

d. The department may revoke/deny any hunting preserve license for failure to comply with any fish or wildlife laws, for reasons relating to disease or public health, for deviation from an approved operational plan, or for failure to abide by the rules and regulations established for this hunting preserve program. Revocation/denial shall be for a minimum of one entire hunting preserve season.

e. New applications must be received prior to August 1 for operation during the forthcoming hunting preserve season.

2. Suitability of Area for Use as a Hunting Preserve

a. No license for a hunting preserve shall be issued until an on-site investigation has been completed by the department and the department has determined that the property is

suitable for the purpose of the proposed hunting preserve. The department shall base its determination on whether or not the proposed shooting area will cause conflicts with wild migratory game bird hunting, or be in violation of state and federal regulations concerning the feeding of migratory waterfowl or the use of live decoys, that the establishment of the shooting area will be in the public interest, and that the operation of a hunting preserve at the location specified in the application will not have a detrimental effect upon wild migratory or resident game birds.

b. No license shall be issued for any hunting preserve situated on a marsh, lake, river or any other place where there are concentrations of wild waterfowl or if its operations are likely to result in attracting such concentrations of wild waterfowl.

c. No hunting preserve using mallards shall be located within five miles of any wildlife area with significant waterfowl concentrations owned or leased by the state or federal government or by non-profit conservation organizations.

d. Licenses for hunting preserves using mallards will not be issued in the coastal zone, defined as that area south of I-10 from the Texas state line to Baton Rouge, south of I-12 from Baton Rouge to Slidell and south of I-10 from Slidell to the Mississippi state line.

e. No license shall be issued for the use of pheasants on any hunting preserve situated within areas with medium to high turkey populations. In areas with low turkey populations and low potential for expansion, pheasants may be used. This determination will be made at the local level by a department biologist in consultation with the turkey study leader. Agricultural areas contiguous to occupied turkey habitat may use pheasants if the preserve boundaries are at least one-half mile from the nearest woodland.

f. The licensee is responsible for notifying the Department of changes in activities or conditions that may affect the suitability of the property for a hunting preserve. If at any time, the Department determines that activities or conditions on the hunting preserve or surrounding property, make the property unsuitable for a hunting preserve, or that continued operation of the hunting preserve is not consistent with these regulations, the Department may immediately revoke the hunting preserve license, or require modification of the operational plan.

g. Applicants and licensees are advised that hunting preserve licenses are issued following a review and recommendations by Department staff. Licenses are issued on an annual basis for a 12-month term only. Changing conditions, including those such as climatic, biological, and land use, which may be beyond the control of the applicant/licensee, may result in certain applications not being granted, or licenses not being renewed. Annual renewal of hunting preserve licenses cannot be assured and applicants/licensees are cautioned to take these factors into consideration when making any investments or commitments which may relate to the continued issuance of a hunting preserve license.

3. Types of Releases Allowed

a. The use of mallards on hunting preserves is limited to those operations whereby domestic mallards are released in a controlled fashion to proceed over positioned shooters in their flight path. No direct releases of any species of domesticated waterfowl into the wild for any sporting purposes or for any reasons are permitted within the state.

b. Quail may be released after September 1 on hunting preserves for the purpose of providing coveys for hunting. Pheasants and chukars may not be released on hunting preserves more than one day prior to a scheduled hunt. No direct releases of domesticated game birds, including but not limited to quail, pheasants and chukars, into the wild for purpose of population establishment are permitted within the state.

c. All quail and mallards must be banded in accordance with R.S. 56:654(4) prior to release.

4. Inspection of Permitted Areas and Domesticated Game Birds

a. Applicant must provide proof that the birds to be released originated from a source flock participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPPI) within 365 days prior to release and have not been in contact with birds from non-NPIP sources.

b. The premises of game bird production facilities and/or holding pens may be inspected by the department or by a designated agent for assessment of health of birds and sanitation of facilities. General pen requirements must conform to those adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for game breeders.

c. Accurate records of animal husbandry and mortality must be maintained at production/holding facilities and will be subject to periodic inspection by the department.

d. Every person who brings or causes to be brought into this state live domestically reared game birds for shooting purposes must comply with Livestock Sanitary Board regulations on livestock, poultry, and wild animals (R.S. 7:11705, 11767 and 11789). A copy of the health certificate must also be forwarded to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries within 10 days for each shipment of birds. Any shipment of birds not accompanied by a health certificate shall be destroyed or returned to the place of origin by the importer at his sole cost and responsibility.

5. Hunting Licenses Requirements. A basic hunting license or hunting preserve license is required of all persons hunting on hunting preserves. In addition, a Louisiana Waterfowl Hunting License (formerly known as a state duck stamp) is required as provided by law of all persons taking or hunting mallards on any hunting preserves.

6. Season Dates. The season during which shooting will be permitted shall be set by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. The current season is fixed for the period of October 1 through April 30.

7. Shooting Hours. Shooting hours for hunting preserves shall be set by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. The current hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

8. Methods of Take

a. Shotguns 10 gauge or smaller capable of holding no more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined; nontoxic shot is required for hunting mallards on hunting preserves approved for use of mallards.

b. Muzzle-loading shotguns;

c. Falconry;

d. Archery equipment.

B. Existing state laws R.S. 56:651-659 and federal law 50 CFR 21:13 address bird banding, bird identification, bird

transportation, reports and records and other issues. Compliance with these state and federal laws are mandatory. Hunting and taking of wild migratory and wild resident game birds on licensed hunting preserves must conform to all state and federal hunting regulations, including, but not limited to: non-toxic shot requirements, federal duck stamp requirements, live decoy prohibition, seasons and bag limits.

C. Changes in Rules. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may from time to time make changes in these rules and it is the responsibility of the licensee to apprise himself of any changes and to abide by them.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:651-659.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 18:1136 (October 1992), amended LR 28:1033 (May 2002).

Hunting Preserve Operational Plan



Please provide the requested information. The information you provide will constitute the operational plan required by the hunting preserve regulations. If your preserve offers several types of hunts or uses birds requiring differing release methods, please provide specific information about each type of hunt and each release method. If additional space is needed, please attach additional page(s) as necessary. It will not be necessary to submit a new plan each year, but you will be asked to review this information and make necessary changes each year prior to renewal. You will receive a copy of the operational plan for your records once it is approved.

1. Name of preserve and preserve number (new applicants will not have a number):

2. Will this preserve be open to the public or is it for private use only?

3. What species of game birds will be released?

4. Generally describe the hunting activities that will occur on your preserve.

5. Describe in detail how the birds will be released (planted in cover, soft release system such as Anchor Covey, released from tower or pen, etc.)?

6. When will the birds be released (how long before the actual hunt)?

7. When will the birds be banded?

8. Will there be any other type of hunting on your property other than the preserve game bird hunts? If so, what type of hunting will occur?
9. Generally describe the land use and hunting activity on property surrounding your preserve (types of agriculture, forest, fields, pasture, residential, deer hunting, duck hunting, etc).

Questions 10 - 16 apply only to those preserves using ducks. If you are not using ducks go directly to question 17.

10. Please describe your method of training your ducks to fly toward the shooters.
11. How will any surviving ducks be recaptured?
12. What is the distance from release point to blinds?
13. What is the distance from the holding and/or flight pens to the blinds, if the release point is in a different location from the pens?
14. What is the size and average depth of the shooting pond(s)?
15. Attach a map or diagram showing the location of blinds, duck release sites, and water sources on your property. Mark blinds with a "B", release sites with "RS", permanent ponds with

“PP”, areas subject to seasonal flooding by rainfall or overflow from creeks, rivers, etc. with “SF”, and managed water (areas where water may be pumped or flooding and water level can be controlled) with “MW”.

16. Are there any permanent ponds, seasonally flooded areas, or managed water on adjacent or nearby (within 2 miles) property? If so, please indicate such on a map or diagram in the manner described in 15 above.
17. If the answer to question 16 is yes, what is the distance from your shooting pond to the nearest site where hunting of wild ducks is likely to occur?
18. Frequently we receive calls from hunters seeking assistance in locating a hunting preserve. We will put together a list of preserves and the type of hunts offered to provide to inquiring hunters. Do you want to be included on this list?

(Continued on next page)

I have received a copy of the hunting preserve rules dated May 2002. I understand that a hunting preserve license will not be issued until my operational plan is approved in writing by the Wildlife Division. I also understand that deviation from my approved operational plan without prior written approval of the Wildlife Division or changing conditions that affect the suitability of the site for use as a hunting preserve may result in revocation or non-renewal of my hunting preserve license.

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Wildlife Division Approval: _____ Date: _____

(Do not sign boxes below except upon Department request during renewal process.)

Renewal of above Operational Plan		
Preserve Operator Signature	Wildlife Division Approval	Season